

Children and Young People's Plan

2014-18

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**North Tyneside Children, Young People and
Learning partnership**

Children and Young People's Plan

2014 – 2018

1. Introduction

Welcome to the Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18, which sets out the strategic framework for planning, commissioning and delivering children's services in North Tyneside. The plan has been developed by North Tyneside Children, Young people and Learning Partnership. The Partnership brings together public and voluntary sectors organisations responsible for children services, with the aim of integration services to improve the lives of children, young people and their families.

North Tyneside is a great place to grow up. The majority of children in North Tyneside have a happy childhood and become successful adults, supported by their families, communities and universal services. The Children, Young People and Learning Partnership have made significant progress in improving key outcomes for children, young people and their families since the publication of the first Children and Young People's Plan in 2006. Yet partners recognise that significant challenges remain. A significant minority of children and young people do not realise their full potential and a growing number of families experience difficulties that require specialist intervention and support. Entrenched deprivation and inequality persist, with almost 1 in 5 of the borough's children raised in poverty, a figure that is considerably higher in our most deprived neighbourhoods. Children's services are also facing unprecedented change and uncertainty, with partners having to make difficult decisions around resources. It is only by working together that children's services will address the most pressing issues facing children, young people and their families in North Tyneside, which is why the partnership agreed to develop a new Children and Young People's Plan.

North Tyneside Children, Young People and Learning Partnership have agreed a new approach to the Children and Young People's Plan for 2014-18. In a period of reduced public funding the partnership must focus its energies on those areas where it can achieve the greatest impact. The new plan is focussed on a limited number of priorities, which are not intended to capture the entirety of children's services activity but represent those areas where collaboration can deliver significant change.

While the plan articulates the overarching vision and principles for **all** children's services in North Tyneside, its main focus is on improving outcomes for the minority of children and young people who are experiencing, or who are at increased risk of vulnerability, poor outcomes or deprivation. The plan seeks to achieve a sustainable balance between prevention, early intervention and remedial provision for children, young people and their families.

This plan is a high level document that establishes a clear strategic direction for children's services in the borough and aims to ensure coherence across the partnerships' planning, commissioning and delivery arrangements. The partnership wants the Children and Young People's Plan to foster innovation and greater responsiveness. Therefore the partnership's existing delivery plans will detail the actions the partnership will take to deliver the shared priorities. The annually update of the delivery plans will provide partners with the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances and test innovative new approaches.

The Children and Young People's Plan is also North Tyneside's Child Poverty Strategy. The priorities and outcomes outlined in the plan will address the underlying causes of child poverty and disrupt the intergenerational cycle of disadvantage that limits the life chances of too many children and young people.

The priorities and outcomes contained within the plan were identified following consultation with children, young people and communities and an analysis of strategic needs. The plan is also aligned with the 'Our North Tyneside Plan', the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Safer North Tyneside Plan. Our ongoing programme of consultation and engagement with children, young people and their families, will ensure the partnership continue to focus on the key issues facing children and young people.

The Scope of the Plan

The plan focuses on all children and young people up to the age of 19 years and those young people aged up to 25 years who are care leavers, have special needs or a disability and live in the borough. We have also extended the plan's remit to incorporate the partnership's work with families of children and young people. The Partnership recognises that sustainable improvements to children and young people's lives cannot be made without addressing the wider familial context.

Our Vision and Principles

North Tyneside Children, Young People and Learning Partnership's vision of a borough where:

- Children and young people are respected, valued and listened to;
- Childhood is nurtured;
- Children and young people are happy, healthy, confident and safe, and develop as enthusiastic learners and tolerant, compassionate individuals who are challenged and supported to be the best they can be; and
- The power of learning is harnessed to transform the lives of individuals and regenerate our communities.
- Children and young people grow into successful adults.

The partnership's work is underpinned by eleven principles that will inform all aspects of our work. Children and young people:

1. Come first.
2. Have a right to be recognised as people with views and interests.
3. Have a right to be protected from harm and discrimination.
4. Have a right to develop as curious, enthusiastic and autonomous learners.

5. Have a right to the best health possible and to medical care.
6. Have a right to live and play in a safe healthy environment.
7. Have a right to an identity.
8. Should have the opportunity to grow up in a family and a community with equality of access regardless of their sex, gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity and background.

In addition:

9. Parents, carers and communities need to be supported in promoting the interests and welfare of their children and those in their communities.
10. We never give up on a child or young person - no child should be viewed as a lost cause.
11. Everyone should have the skills to find sustainable employment as adults.

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Children and Young People Plan 2014-18 Priorities.

North Tyneside Children, Young People and Learning Partnership have identified three priorities and associated outcomes.

0-5 Years

Ready for School

- A healthy early childhood
- Children are ready to start school

6-19/25 Years

Ready for Work and Life

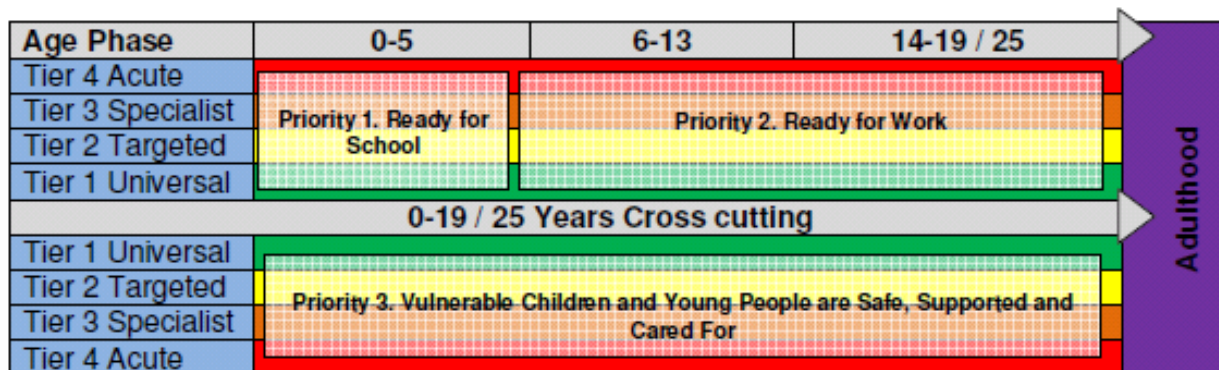
- Narrow the gap in educational outcomes
- Ready for employment
- Reduce risk taking behaviour

All Age Phases

Safe, Supported and Cared For

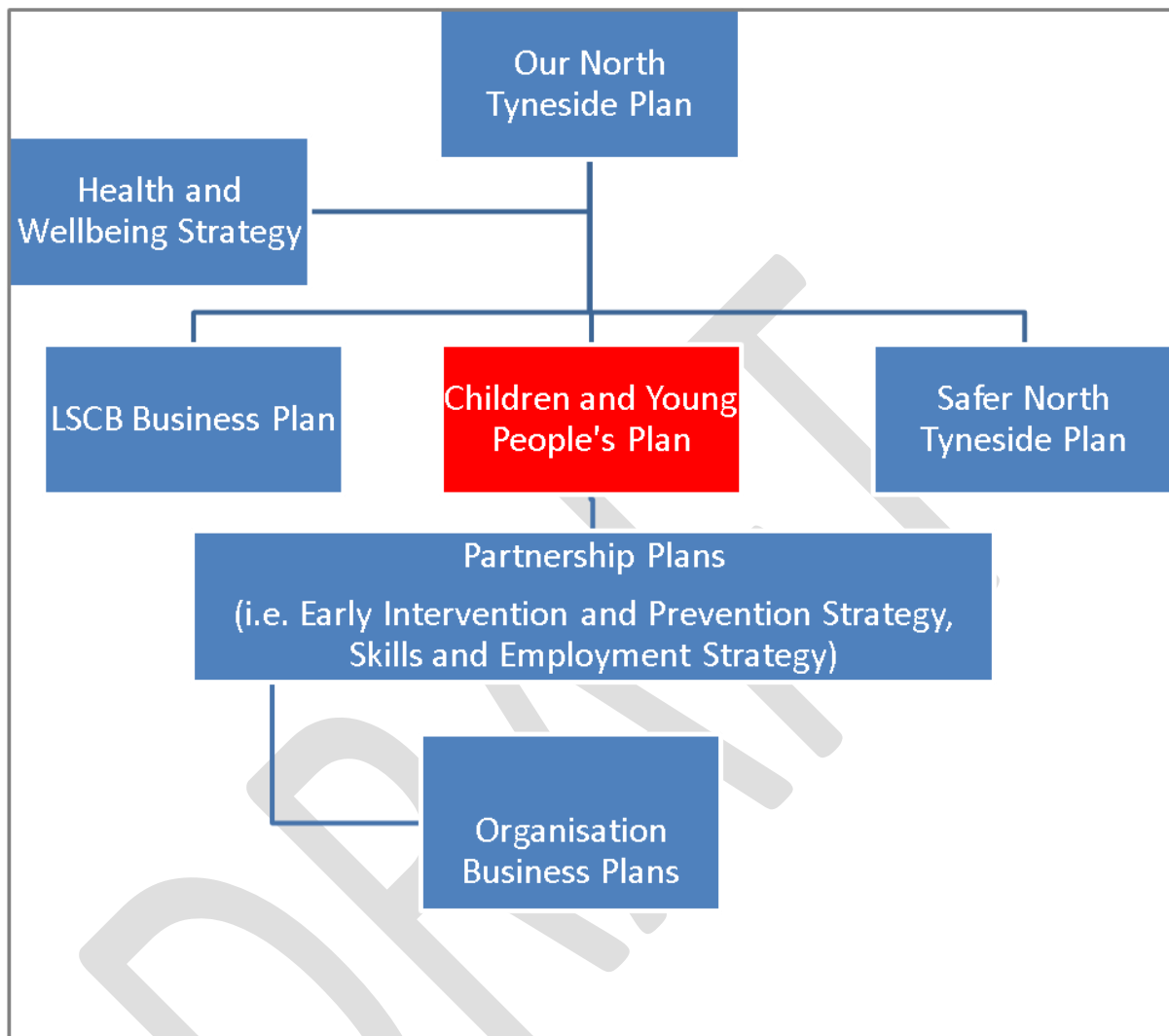
- The most vulnerable children and young people are protected from harm
- Improved outcomes for looked after children
- Improved outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs

Priority 1 and 2 are based on a life-course approach, with an appreciation of key age and phase transition points i.e. ready for school, ready for adulthood. The third theme cuts across all age stages to ensure children and young people are safe, supported and cared, regardless of their age phase.



Strategic Links Diagram

The diagram below shows how the Children and Young People's Plan position within the borough's strategic planning framework.



2. Why do we Need A Children and Young People's Plan?

Children's Services both nationally and locally are facing a period of unprecedented change that will transform the way services are provided. The long term sustainability of the current model of children's services is threatened by growing demand and constrained public expenditure. Technological change is transforming communities, the workplace and our lives, creating huge uncertainty. Yet the distribution of deprivation, inequality and disadvantage in the borough remain stubbornly entrenched and the life chances of our most vulnerable and deprived children continue to be constrained. North Tyneside has a lower than average level of child poverty, yet almost 1 in 5 of North Tyneside's children are raised in poverty. This rate is considerably higher in our most

deprived communities. This means that within some communities, successive generation of children and young people grow up to become poor adults.

Strategic Needs Analysis - Summary

The priorities and outcomes identified in this plan have been developed following analysis of the national and local evidence base, consultation with children, young people and the wider community. The Children and Young People’s Strategic Needs Assessment contains the detailed analysis but the following summary sets out the key inequalities and factors that underpin vulnerability and poor outcomes for children and young people.

	North Tyneside Issues	National Policy Context
Ready for School	<p>Increased birth rate will place additional demands on early years services.</p> <p>North Tyneside’s breast feeding rates remain lower than the national average.</p> <p>In 2012 10.5% of Reception children were classed as very overweight. Local data for 2013 shows an increase for Reception to 11.7% (the highest ever).</p> <p>Children born in our most deprived communities are at greater risk of poor health outcomes throughout their life.</p>	<p>Allen Review: Early Intervention.</p> <p>Field Review: The Foundation Years: preventing poor children becoming poor adults</p> <p>The Marmot Review: Fair Society, Healthy Lives</p> <p>Health and Social Care Act 2012</p> <p>Reform of the Early Years Foundation Stage</p>
Ready for Work and Life	<p>The number of young people aged 18-24 claiming job seekers allowance in North Tyneside exceeds the national average.</p> <p>The proportion of North Tyneside’s children living in poverty is lower than the national average but one in five children are raised in poverty. The figure is significantly higher in our most deprived communities.</p> <p>The educational attainment gap between North Tyneside’s vulnerable learners and their peers persists. (i.e. Looked after children, those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and those in receipt of pupil premium).</p> <p>Surplus capacity in secondary schools.</p> <p>North Tyneside performs below the national average across a number of Key Stage 5 indicators.</p> <p>Young people who have experienced deprivation are less likely to progress to higher education than their peers. This gap is higher in North Tyneside than the national average.</p> <p>Fewer residents are qualified to the highest level (equivalent to NVQ 4 and above) compared to the national average and the rate of</p>	<p>Academies Act 2010</p> <p>The Education Act 2011</p> <p>The Marmot Review: Fair Society, Healthy Lives</p> <p>Child Poverty Strategy</p> <p>Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission</p> <p>Pupil Premium</p> <p>Reform of Key Stage 4 Qualifications</p> <p>Raising of the Participation Age</p> <p>Welfare Reform Act 2012</p> <p>Skills for Sustainable Growth</p> <p>Skills Funding reform</p> <p>Making Apprenticeships More Accessible to Small and Medium Enterprises: Holt Review</p> <p>Review of Vocational Education: Wolf Review</p>

	<p>improvement is slower than the national average.</p>	<p>Future of Apprenticeships in England: Richards Review</p> <p>The Children and Families Act 2014</p>
<p>Safe, Supported and Cared For</p>	<p>Current levels of demand for specialist children's services are unsustainable in the long term.</p> <p>Demand for specialist support is predicted to increase in the future.</p> <p>Long term stability of placements for looked after children and seeking adoptions within the government's timescales remain a challenge.</p> <p>Families dissatisfied with existing support for children and young people with disabilities or additional needs.</p> <p>Domestic abuse is a significant issue in the borough in terms of violent crime, community safety, mental health and child protection.</p> <p>Despite a sustained and significant reduction in recent years, teenage conception rates in the borough continue to exceed the national average.</p> <p>North Tyneside has higher rates of young people being admitted to hospital due to self harm, alcohol related conditions and substance misuse than the national average.</p>	<p>The Munro Review of Child Protection: A child centred system</p> <p>Government's Adoption Proposals</p> <p>Revised Statutory Guidance on Safeguarding</p> <p>Troubled Families Initiative</p> <p>Children and Families Act 2014-04-23</p> <p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Reforms</p>

3. What we will do

North Tyneside Children and Young People's Partnership will focus on the following strategic priorities and outcomes:

Priority 1. Ready for School

Early childhood is a critical period in which an individual's emotional, physical and cognitive development and wellbeing is shaped. That is why the Children, Young People and Learning Partnership want every child to experience a positive early childhood, which prepares them for school and provides the foundations for lifelong success. The single biggest influence on a child's life during early childhood is the family, so the partnership will empower parents and carers to support their children's health and development of families at risk of poor outcomes.

Outcome 1.1 A Healthy Early Childhood

The Issue

Health is a key determinant of life chances and the foundations for good health and wellbeing throughout life can be established during early childhood. Unfortunately stark health inequalities persist within the borough. Children born into our most deprived communities experience a higher risk of poor health and shorter life expectancies than their peers. In fact a social gradient in health is apparent, with health inequalities reflecting wider socio-economic inequalities.

Early childhood is also essential to the emotional and social development of children. Children who develop a positive relationship with their parents / carers during the early years are more likely to achieve positive outcome throughout their life.

Our Response

The partnership will seek to ensure every child has a healthy early childhood, while aiming to reduce health inequalities. Resources will be targeted to ensure the scale and intensity of support reflects levels of disadvantage and with the aim of reduce demand for specialist provision in the longer term. Partners will work with families from before birth to support the healthy development of children. A targeted approach will build the capacity of (potentially) vulnerable families to lead healthy lifestyles from (before) birth. We will also enable vulnerable and 'at risk' families to support their child's emotional development, with a strong focus on positive parenting, bonding and resilience. Partners will ensure that families understand and are able to put into practice the foundations of effective parenting. We will also work with partners to address parental health issues, which can contribute to child poverty and may act as a barrier to children realising their potential.

Lead - tbc

Key partners – Public Health, North Tyneside Council, North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group, Northumbria Healthcare Trust

Outcome 1.2 Children are ready to start school

The Issue

Children develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes that provide the foundations for learning during early childhood. Children who start school without the core skills for learning face an immediate disadvantage, which can persist throughout their education and into adulthood. Children from deprived households are at greater risk of entering school without the skills for learning, which can perpetuate the cycle of child poverty. The family is the main influence upon a child's development during early childhood but good quality early years provision can help children prepare for school. Good early years education is particularly beneficial for children from deprived backgrounds, or who are at risk of poor outcomes.

Our Response

Families play a critical role in preparing children for school. North Tyneside Children, Young People and Learning Partnership will focus on supporting families where school readiness is a potential issue. Partners will identify children with additional needs at the earliest opportunity and arrange the appropriate support. Partners will focus on building the capacity of parents to provide a positive learning environment at home. We will also ensure that every child has access to affordable high quality early education within their locality, particularly those from deprived backgrounds and those vulnerable or at risk of becoming vulnerable or experiencing poor outcomes.

Lead - tbc

Key partners – Childcare Providers, Primary / First Schools, North Tyneside Learning Trust and North Tyneside Council

Priority 2. Ready for Work and Life

North Tyneside Children, Young People and Learning Partnership believe every child and young person should be supported to realise their full potential. The overwhelming majority of children and young people are supported by their family, friends and community to achieve this goal, with the support of universal services. However a minority of the borough's children and young people find their aspirations constrained from an early age and require additional support if they are to fulfil their potential. Supporting the learning and personal development of these children and young people can transform life chances and significantly reduce the risk of experiencing poverty in later life.

The partnership will focus our efforts on raising the aspirations and attainment of children and young people who are experiencing / or at increased risk of vulnerability, poor outcomes or deprivation. Ensuring these children and young people have the skills and qualifications to succeed as adults is at the heart of our efforts to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. These children and young people will be supported to achieve at school. They will also be supported to access skills and qualifications pathways that lead to the sustainable employment and improved life chances.

Some young people engage in risk taking behaviours. This can compound existing disadvantages to significantly harm their life chances and increase their risk of experiencing poverty as an adult. Targeted support will reduce risk taking behaviours amongst vulnerable young people and those at increased risk of vulnerability, poor outcomes and deprivation.

Outcome 2.1 Narrow the gap in educational outcomes

The Issue

The majority of children and young people in North Tyneside achieve well in their education. However a persistent gap in educational outcomes exists between children and young people from vulnerable or deprived backgrounds and their peers. Poor educational attainment is a critical component of intergenerational poverty and a major determinant of life chances. High quality schools provision is a key component in tackling educational disadvantage, along with targeted support for those at greatest risk of underperformance.

Our Response

Partners will identify children and young people at increased risk of underachieving, monitor their progress and provide support. Support will be targeted at those in greatest need. Partners will work with the wider family to remove any potential barriers to educational progress.

Lead - tbc

Key partners – Schools, North Tyneside Learning Trust, Voluntary and Community Sector and North Tyneside Council

Outcome 2.2 Ready for employment

The Issue

Sustainable employment is at the heart of improving life chances and breaking the cycle of child poverty. A key challenge for partners is to ensure young people have the higher level skills required by employers. A strong link exists between childhood deprivation, low skills and reduced employment opportunities in later life. Fewer young people from vulnerable or deprived backgrounds achieve the higher level skills needed for sustainable employment. Young people from deprived backgrounds are also more likely to lack the basic employability skills required for even entry level positions. Prolonged absence from education or employment, particularly during early adulthood has a significant impact upon life chances. Young people from deprived or vulnerable backgrounds are also at greater risk of unemployment or underemployment during early adulthood. Partners need to support more young people from deprived and vulnerable backgrounds to achieve the skills needed to succeed in the workplace.

Our Response

The partnership will develop pathways from learning to sustainable employment, with a strong focus on vocational learning. Partners will ensure young people from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds are supported to develop the skills and knowledge to succeed in employment. We will also focus on developing work readiness and greater understandings of the world of work for those young people who are not currently ready to enter employment. Partners will work with employers to deliver a demand led skills and employment infrastructure. Opportunities arising from the Enterprise Zone and north bank of the Tyne redevelopment will be used to prepare young people for sustainable employment. We will also ensure North Tyneside plays a full role in the sub regional arrangements for improving skills, which is led by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership. Young people at risk of leaving education, employment or training and those who are long term unemployed, will receive additional support. We will also work with parents of children living in deprivation to develop the skills to (re)enter employment.

Lead - tbc

Key partners – Schools, Further Education providers, Training Providers, Employers, North Tyneside Learning Trust and North Tyneside Council, North East Local Enterprise Partnership

Outcome 2.3 Reduce risk taking behaviour

The Issue

Risk taking behaviour remains an ongoing issue for a minority of young people in the borough. North Tyneside has higher incidences of smoking, substance and alcohol misuse and teenage conceptions than the national average. These issues disproportionately affect the most vulnerable and deprived young people, compounding existing health, education and employment disadvantages. Partners will have to work together to identify and support young people engaged in risk taking behaviour.

Our Response

We will support young people to make informed decisions about their lives and to reduce behaviours that limit life chances. Partners will target young people engaged in multiple risk taking behaviours, as they are at greatest risk of experiencing poor outcomes. Support will also be directed at those young people where there is an identified risk of poor outcomes in the future.

Lead - tbc

Key partners – North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group, Northumbria Healthcare Trust, Public Health, North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board, Voluntary and Community Sector, Northumbria Police and North Tyneside Council

Priority 3. Safe, Supported and Cared For

Protecting and caring for children and young people is at the heart of the Children and Young People Partnership's work. A minority of families do not provide the appropriate care and protection for their children. The persistent failure to meet the physical and psychological needs of a child can significantly harm their life chances. It is essential that partners identify those at risk at the earliest opportunity and prevent further harm. Where necessary the most vulnerable children and young people are looked after by the local authority. Projected demand for Tier 3 and 4 services is unsustainable in the long term and poverty is placing additional burdens on services. Partners need to manage down demand for acute services by intervening earlier to address underlying issues and risk factors before they escalate and become entrenched. Children and young people who become looked after are at increased risk of poor outcomes and experiencing poverty as adults.

Children and young people with disabilities and additional needs face additional barriers, which can result in poor outcomes, compared to their peers. We will work with individuals and their families to ensure they get the appropriate support and assistance.

Outcome 3.1 The Most Vulnerable Children and Young People are Protected

The Issue

A minority of families in North Tyneside face severe problems, which result in children and young people becoming vulnerable. However demand for acute and specialist services from families in crisis will become unsustainable in the long term. Early support for families can prevent problems from escalating and becoming entrenched, reducing the number of families reaching crisis point. Early preventative interventions are also more effective and efficient, but some families will continue reach crisis point and timely action must be taken to protect children and young people in such cases. Reducing the number of children and families requiring specialist services will only be achieved if partners work collaboratively to identify and address risk at the earliest opportunity.

Our Response

The partnership will continue working with North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board to deliver integrated provision to identify and protect vulnerable children and young people. Greater resources will be focused on early preventative interventions, to address risk factors and to reduce the number of vulnerable families requiring specialist / acute (Tier 3 and 4) services. Evidence based interventions will be used to manage and reduce risk factors within families identified as being 'at risk'. The most vulnerable families will receive intensive multi agency programmes of support to rapidly reduce the level of risk. Where the problems facing a family cannot be adequately resolved partners will take swift action to protect children and young people. Partners will also work with the North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board to address priorities such as domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and neglect.

Lead - tbc

Key partners – North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board, North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group, Northumbria Healthcare Trust, Public Health, Northumbria Police and North Tyneside Council

Outcome 3.2 Improved Outcomes for Looked After Children

The Issue

North Tyneside's looked after population has experienced sustained growth and continues to experience poor outcomes in comparison to their peers, despite significant progress being achieved in some areas. The long term stability of placements and the Government's adoption timescales remain a priority for the partnership. Nationally care leavers are at greater risk of experiencing poverty as adults than their peers.

Our Response

The partnership will ensure looked after children receive the same opportunities and outcomes as their peers. The partnership will continue to focus on improving educational attainment, increasing the number of looked after children finding a permanent and stable home and ensuring a successful transition to adulthood, including sustainable employment.

Lead - tbc

Key partners – North Tyneside Council, North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board, Private Care Providers, Foster Carers, North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Healthcare Trust, Schools.

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Outcome 3.3 The Right Support for Children and Young People with Disabilities and Additional Needs.

The Issue

Children and young people with disabilities and additional needs face extra barriers to success, which often results in poorer outcomes than their peers. Many families believe the current support systems are complicated, fragmented and time consuming. They are perceived as placing additional burdens on families and frequently fail to meet the needs and aspirations of children, young people and their wider family. Families with a disabled child are more likely to experience poverty and children with a disability and / or additional needs are also at increased risk of experiencing poverty as an adult.

Our Response

The partnership will ensure children, young people and their families get the appropriate education, health and care support when they need it. Partners will integrate services, so they respond to the needs and expectations of families. Children, young people and their families will also be given greater control over the support they receive. Ensuring families get appropriate support may help some families to enter employment, reducing the risk of poverty. We will also support young people with disabilities and additional needs to find employment where appropriate.

Lead - tbc

Key partners – North Tyneside Council, Schools, Further Education Providers, Voluntary and Community Sector, North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Healthcare Trust, Schools.

Enabling Actions

The Children, Young People and Learning Partnership will undertake the following activities to facilitate the successful delivery of the Children and Young People Plan 2014-18:

- Review governance arrangements to ensure they provide the appropriate ownership, accountability, challenge and scrutiny to deliver the Children Plan, both now and in the future.
- Ensure we have the right communication systems and methods in place to share consistent messages with partners and stakeholders, regarding the plan.
- Review our arrangements for sharing information, to ensure partners are able to make informed and timely decisions around the delivery and review of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- Publish a revised Workforce Development Strategy that will ensure the children's services workforce has the shared culture, knowledge and skills to support families in accordance with partnership's vision and outcomes.

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How will we know it is working?

The success measures set out below will enable the Children, Young People and Learning Executive Commissioning Board to assess the impact of the work to deliver the priority themes and associated outcomes. The Commissioning Executive Board will receive in year progress against the success measures.

Priority	Outcome	Success Measures
1. Ready for School	1.1 Children and their families lead healthy lifestyles	• tbc
	1.2 Children are ready to start school	• tbc
2. Ready for Employment	2.1 Narrow the gap in educational outcomes	• tbc
	2.2 Ready for employment	• tbc
	2.3 Reduce risk taking behaviour	• tbc
3. Safe, Supported and Cared For	3.1 The most vulnerable children are protected from harm	• tbc
	3.2 Improved outcomes for looked after children	• tbc
	3.3 The Right Support for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs	• tbc

Governance Arrangements

The Children, Young people and Learning Partnership is responsible for delivering the Children and Young people's Plan 2014-18. The partnership is integrated within the borough's wider governance network for children's services, which ensure the appropriate challenge and scrutiny of the plan. The graphic below shows how the Children and Young People Partnership is integrated within the borough's wider governance network.

North Tyneside's Children's Services Governance Network



Children and Young People's Plan 2014-18 Governance Arrangements

Accountable
to

- North Tyneside Strategic Partnership
- Children, Young people and Learning Partnership
- Residents

Reporting to

- North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board
- Health and Wellbeing Board
- Children, Young people and Learning Executive Commissioning Board
- Area Children's Strategy Groups
- North Tyneside Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Challenge
and scrutiny
from

- North Tyneside Safeguarding Children Board
- Children, Young People and Learning Executive Commissioning Board
- North Tyneside Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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